Open access at the IUCr

The International Union of Crystallography is a scientific union adhering to the International Science Council (ISC). Its objectives are to promote international cooperation in crystallography and to contribute to all aspects of crystallography, to promote international publication of crystallographic research, to facilitate standardization of methods, units, nomenclatures and symbols, and to form a focus for the relations of crystallography to other sciences.
IUCr publishing

We are a small society publisher:

- 10 Journals
- 3 Open access, self-published
- 6 Hybrid with transformative agreements, co-published with Wiley
- 1 Open access, co-published with Wiley, flipped in 2022

We have authors in over 135 countries

We aim to make a small profit (~10%) for supporting educational and outreach activities

IUCr journals are committed to open-access publication
Our unusual characteristics

• We are an International Union and a publisher
• We develop standards, e.g. for data exchange, and promote them by publication
• We validate and peer review data for publication
• We publish journal articles with open data and visualization tools
• We run all our journals systems (submission, peer review, typesetting, online hosting) in-house
• We have highly integrated and automated publishing systems

The IUCr supports the principles of transparency and openness in scientific research
Open-access articles

2003  Started publishing hybrid open access across our journals
2004-2007  JISC pilot to publish UK articles open access
2008  Flipped Acta Crystallographica E to open access
2014  Launched open-access IUCrJ
2016  Launched open-access IUCrData
2018  First read and publish agreements via Wiley
2019  Modifications to licensing to conform to Plan S requirements
2022  Flipped Journal of Synchrotron Radiation to open access

Growth of hybrid open access
IUCr Journals aim to be compliant with Plan S principles, including providing transparent information on pricing.
We offer read and publish deals via Wiley for our hybrid journals

Direct APC payment is available for all journals

Waivers are available for our full open-access journals
We provide a version of record reprint for authors to post in a repository without embargo.

We provide XML to PMC for NIH-funded biomedical articles.

Supporting data are all given a DOI and published open access.
Some challenges of open-access publishing

Potential for lower revenues

Temptation to lower standards to increase revenues

Open-access policies favour the big deal approach

Adoption of policies from subscription publishing

Business model for open access remains uneven, with different situations applying to corresponding authors in different countries
IUCr publishing - the next few years

• Continue to work with a publication partner
• Continue to self-publish current open-access journals
• Look carefully at what other society publishers are doing and explore other models
• Develop and market ‘pure publish’ deals for our open-access journals
• Move towards full open-access publication (with or without a publication partner), but then
  • Accept lower revenues from open access than from subscription publishing
  • Accept that journals that currently have little open-access content may fail
  • Work towards cutting costs to ensure the journals are sustainable
Final comments

- Open access is the way forward and has great benefits such as
  - Increased citation and usage
  - Greater public engagement
  - Faster impact
  - Widest possible publication
- Scientific societies remain crucial to the development of science, and will need to continue to derive income from publishing activities
- Publishing modes and roles will continue to change, and we will all need to adapt to this, while maintaining standards